

HONORING SECOND LIEUTENANT
YER VANG

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and service of the late Second Lieutenant Yer Vang. Second Lieutenant Vang served the United States of America honorably during the Vietnam War.

Yer Vang was born on February 2, 1960, at Ban Long Xai, Muan Long Xai, in the Xieng Khouang province in the Kingdom of Laos. He attended Ban Na Elementary School. In March of 1972, when he reached the age of twelve, he was recruited to train at Muang Cha Military Training Center, located in the Xieng Khouang province.

Upon completion of his military training, Yer Vang was assigned to work as a water supplier and a mail carrier at the 228th Battalion Headquarters. On January 1, 1973, he was transferred to the 2281st Company Infantry Division of the 228th Battalion Special Guerrilla Units (SGU), 1st Strike Division Infantry of the United States Secret Army. Yer Vang fought in the Vietnam War with this unit through May of 1975. During this tenure of his service, he took part in many important missions advanced by the United States Secret Army and was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

After the communist takeover of Laos in May of 1975, Yer Vang's unit was stationed south of the Plains des Jarres. Unable to be airlifted to a U.S. Airbase in Thailand, Yer Vang had to flee his position and go into hiding in fear of being persecuted by the ruling government. He remained in hiding until June of 1979, when he passed through the jungles of Laos by moonlight and crossed the Mekong River to safety in Thailand.

Yer Vang was a political refugee at Ban Vinai Camp in Thailand for twenty years. On January 31, 1990, he came to the United States and began his life in Fresno, California. Once resettled in Fresno, Yer Vang attended Fresno Adult School, where he graduated in 1993. He worked at a local Pizza Hut for two years, before he was hired as a teacher's aide for Fresno Unified School District in August of 1995. In 1997, Yer Vang was selected to be a board member of the Lao Veterans of America, where he served as Treasurer from 1997 through 2000 and Secretary from 2005 through 2012.

Second Lieutenant Yer Vang passed away on June 24, 2012. He is survived by his wife, whom he married while in the refugee camp in Thailand. The couple has thirteen children: three sons and ten daughters.

For his military service, Yer Vang was awarded the Bronze Medal from the King of Laos, the United States Special Forces in Laos Medal, and multiple commendations and citations from the United States Congress. He was also honored by the United States Congress with the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Veterans Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Second Lieutenant Yer Vang for his heroic service to the United States of America and extending our deepest condolences to his family. His legacy serves

as an example of excellence, and his contributions to our country will not be forgotten.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3803 would prevent abortions of unborn children who are more than 20 weeks after fertilization—the age at which scientific evidence shows that they can feel great pain.

This bill will prevent brutal, late term abortion procedures, including one in which unborn children are mutilated and dismembered while they are still alive. Only the most calloused among us can hear the description of these types of procedures and not react with disgust.

I strongly believe that life begins at conception, and that we should protect the lives of innocent unborn children. I wish this bill went even further, but the absolute least we can do is ban abortion when we know the unborn children experience great pain. I urge support of this important legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND BETTY DODD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of joy that I recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the wedding of John and Betty Dodd, two outstanding and esteemed citizens of Farmers Branch, Texas.

John and Betty were married on August 19, 1962, and have lived in Dallas County ever since. They have both led inspiring lives dedicated to education and our community. John is a Certified Financial Planner and CEO of Honors Academy, a nonprofit organization that operates charter schools. He has served as a member of the Dallas Independent School District Board, a city council member and the mayor of Farmers Branch, and remains active in many community organizations. Betty is a teacher and a volunteer and board member at several organizations including her children's schools, Prestonwest Republican Women, Farmers Branch Civic League, and Farmers Branch Women's Club. Truly, the Dodds have been valuable assets in the town that they call home.

They have raised a family together and are the dedicated parents of David Dodd and Angela Dodd Miller. John and Betty are also the loving parents-in-law of Shannon and Jon, and grandparents of Justin and Caroline Dodd, and Matthew, Caroline, Nathan, and Andrew Miller. The Dodds are members of First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating

John and Betty Dodd on 50 years of marriage, a truly noteworthy testament to their strong commitment to each other and to the beauty of marriage.

TRIBUTE TO HORACE CURLIN HALL III

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Horace Curlin Hall III, an outstanding lawyer, devoted father and true friend to the South Texas community. Mr. Hall will be long remembered as a man who was dedicated to his country, his family and his profession for years after his passing.

Mr. Hall, a third generation Laredoan, attended Martin High School where he graduated at the young age of fifteen. A lifetime Longhorn, he attended The University of Texas at Austin, where he joined the Sigma Chi fraternity, an organization whose fundamental purpose is to promote the core values of friendship, justice and learning—all virtues he modeled throughout his lifetime. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1950, he honorably served his country as First Lieutenant in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Upon his return from Korea, he enrolled at The University of Texas School of Law and received his degree in 1955.

While attending law school, Mr. Hall met and married Nancy Louise Black and together they raised five daughters. Mr. Hall presented each daughter as a debutante in the Society of Martha Washington, a bicultural organization committed to celebrating the legacy of our country and chartered in part by Mr. Hall's grandmother, Camila Scott Hall. An endlessly supportive father and an advocate of education, Mr. Hall encouraged each daughter to attend college.

Regarded as a distinguished lawyer, Mr. Hall joined his father's law firm in Laredo, Texas, and practiced until passing, advocating on behalf of those that shared his loyalty to the South Texas community. In continuation of his commitment to education, Mr. Hall legally represented Laredo Community College throughout most of his career. Included in the list of clients to the firm were banks, construction companies and the Association of Laredo Forwarding Agents, an organization whose purpose is to promote local corporations at both the national and international level.

Mr. Hall was well known for his many passions outside of his profession, including a love of literature and poetry, which he shared with those close to him. He enjoyed the South Texas country and was considered an excellent marksman, often bringing together his family after a hunt for a gourmet meal. His sense of humor was one of his greatest characteristics, attracting friends that remained faithful to him until the end.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Horace Curlin Hall III. He is no longer with us, but his contributions not only to his country and family, but also to his profession and his beloved community will live on.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CLEMMIE E.
WEBBER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary educator, entrepreneur, author, community activist and mother. Dr. Clemmie E. Webber passed away on July 25, 2012, at the age of 99. This remarkable trailblazer will be sorely missed by all who had the honor of knowing her, and I count myself in that number.

Dr. Webber was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina in 1913. She moved at the age of three with her parents, Henry W. and Colin Embly, to Treadwell Street in Orangeburg. She grew up there with her four younger siblings, and would later write a book about their childhood experiences.

Education was always important to Dr. Webber. Her early school years were spent at Claffin University's elementary department, and in high school she attended what is now South Carolina State University. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry at South Carolina State, and went on to earn a doctorate in science education from The American University.

In 1935, at the age of 19, Dr. Webber married Paul Webber, a fellow classmate at South Carolina State. They were entrepreneurs who owned Webber Motor Sales and the Orangeburg Tigers baseball team. However, they were most known for their ownership of two soda shops in Orangeburg that were popular hang outs for students and provided them much-needed jobs. The College Soda Shop also became the inspiration for her second book.

Dr. Webber began her teaching career at the former Wilkinson High School and several elementary schools in the area. She went on to teach chemistry and economics at her alma mater for 25 years. While a professor on South Carolina State's campus, Dr. Webber was a catalyst for change. She led the effort to build the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium, which now houses the Clemmie E. Webber Educator Resource Center. She and her husband, who also served as a history and economics professor at South Carolina State, were mentors for many young people—myself included—during the student Movement of the 1960s.

Her love for education extended to serving on the Orangeburg School District 5 Board for 11 years. She served as Chair of that body for six years, and is credited with developing the compromise that allowed the school district to build the current Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School on U.S Highway 601. She also served as President of the South Carolina School Boards Association and was appointed to a five-year term as a Commissioner on the State Education Commission.

Dr. Webber had an interest not only in educating young people, but helping them to develop character and be good leaders. She was actively involved in the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts organizations, the Jack and Jill program, the Sunlight Club, and served as the PTA President at two schools.

She also demonstrated her exceptional touch with young people at home raising three

children—Carolyn, Sheryl, and Paul, III. Her nurturing nature led to her recognition as the South Carolina and National Mother of the Year in 1983.

Dr. Webber has received numerous other awards and honors including the Order of the Palmetto, the highest honor a South Carolina governor can bestow on a citizen. She was also inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame, received the South Carolina School Boards Distinguished Service Award, and the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Award in recognition of her outstanding civic and educational achievements. In 2008, an Orangeburg street was renamed Webber Boulevard in honor of Dr. Webber and her husband's contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life of Dr. Clemmie E. Webber. She led by example and gave generations of young people the tools they would need to excel in life. What a tremendous legacy she has left for the City of Orangeburg and the State of South Carolina.

HONORING ROBERT D. GRANT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and express my gratitude to Robert D. Grant, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He is retiring from his position as head of the Chicago FBI after an outstanding 29 years of distinguished service to this country.

In 1983, Mr. Grant began his career with the FBI and has since served in Memphis, New York, and San Antonio, along with several different assignments at FBI headquarters here in Washington, D.C., including Chief Inspector.

Mr. Grant spent his time with the FBI committed to improving all areas of operations and has brought tremendous changes to fruition. In 2005, Mr. Grant became the head of the Chicago office, where he is now the longest serving agent-in-charge in the history of that office.

During his time in Chicago, Mr. Grant has overseen numerous widely-recognized investigations, from corrupt public officials to our most violent criminals.

He was at the forefront of the indictment and convictions of several high-ranking members of the Chicago Mafia and played a key role in the arrest of two Chicago men on charges related to the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, India.

Throughout his career, Mr. Grant has received numerous accolades for his impressive service, ranging from local community group recognition to the 2008 Presidential Rank Service Award.

While acknowledging Special Agent-in-Charge Grant today for his three decades of service, we also reaffirm our appreciation to all of the brave men and women of the United States law enforcement community, who work every day to protect our families and keep our country safe.

Once more, we thank Mr. Grant for his integrity, leadership, and dedication to the FBI and our country. And we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House Tuesday afternoon (July 31). My flight was unavoidably delayed on my return to Washington from Milwaukee, WI due to bad weather.

Had I been present—

(1) I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 537—S. 679—Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011.

(2) I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 538—H.R. 828—Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2011, as amended.

(3) I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 539—H.R. 3803—District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 538, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 539, due to severe thunderstorms over the Northeast, my flight was unavoidably delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO RONALD F. DASH

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ronald F. Dash, a resident of the Township of Willingboro, Burlington County, New Jersey in recognition of his outstanding service on behalf of veterans throughout the State of New Jersey. Ronald F. Dash has served as Chairman of the Willingboro Veterans Advisory Committee and as the Advisor to Willingboro's Mayor and Council on Veterans Issues. He also serves on my Military Academy Advisory Committee which makes recommendations for young men and women from New Jersey's Third District who are applying to attend one of our nation's service academies.

Ronald F. Dash served his country with honor and valor as a member of the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. After his Marine Corps (USMC) service in Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves and then transitioned to the Army National Guard attaining a final military rank of Staff Sergeant (E6).

He has given generously of his time, energies, and resources as a Commander and State Chaplain in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 26, and as a member of the